

Application No. 10/711,246
Technology Center 1734
Amendment dated December 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated September 14, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A tape dispenser system for applying an adhesive tape to a surface, the tape dispenser system comprising:

a frame comprising spaced-apart members, the frame having a lower forward end in a forward direction of the frame and a lower rearward end in an oppositely-disposed rearward direction of the frame, each of the spaced-apart members having a lower edge;

a roll of an adhesive tape rotatably mounted between the spaced-apart members so that the tape is dispensed from the roll and travels from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame, the tape having symbols and numerical information along a length thereof;

means for guiding the frame and inhibiting wobbling of the frame when traveling on the surface and applying the tape to the surface, the guiding means comprising lateral guides independently pivotably attached to the spaced-apart members of the frame, each of the lateral guides being attached so that

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a portion thereof is pivotable to positions ~~a position~~ below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member independently of the other of the lateral guides such that either or both of the lateral guides can be selectively pivoted to the positions below the lower edges of their respective spaced-apart members to thereby define means for sliding against at least one lateral side of the surface;

a resilient member disposed between the lower edges of the spaced-apart members and applying a downward pressure on the tape traveling from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame;

means for severing the tape at the rearward end of the frame; and

a handle attached to the frame for pushing the frame in the forward direction.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, further comprising a window defined in at least one of the spaced-apart members through which the roll of adhesive tape can be viewed for assessing how much of the tape remains on the roll.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, wherein each of the lateral guides is pivotably attached to a forward

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end thereof to its respective space-apart member and the portion that is pivotable to a position below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member is a rearward end thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 3, wherein the rearward end of each of the lateral guides is attached to its respective space-apart member with means for enabling the rearward end of the lateral guide to be raised and lowered relative to the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 4, further comprising means for securing the rearward ends of the lateral guides with respect to their respective spaced-apart members.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, wherein the tape is formed of a flexible nonmetallic material that is shrink-resistant, stretch-resistant, and weather-resistant.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, wherein the handle comprises means for attaching an extension

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thereto.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, wherein the spaced-apart frame members are parallel and spaced apart a distance of about three inches and the tape is about three inches wide.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A tape dispenser system for applying an adhesive tape to a surface, the tape dispenser system comprising:

a frame comprising spaced-apart members, the frame having a lower forward end in a forward direction of the frame and a lower rearward end in an oppositely-disposed rearward direction of the frame, each of the spaced-apart members having a lower edge;

a roll of an adhesive tape rotatably mounted between the spaced-apart members so that the tape is dispensed from the roll and travels from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame, the tape having symbols and numerical information along a length thereof;

lateral guides pivotably attached to the space-apart members of the frame, each of the lateral guides being attached so that a portion thereof is pivotable to a position below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member; each of the lateral guides is pivotably attached to a forward end

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thereof to its respective space-apart member and the portion that is pivotable to a position below the lower edge of its respective spaced-apart member is a rearward end thereof.

a resilient member disposed between the lower edges of the spaced-apart members and applying a downward pressure on the tape traveling from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame;

~~The dispenser according to claim 8, further comprising~~ means for slitting the tape lengthwise to form a pair of tape portions of approximately equal width as the tape travels from the forward end to the rearward end of the frame; frame.

means for severing the tape at the rearward end of the frame; and
a handle attached to the frame for pushing the frame in the forward direction.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 9, wherein the tape has perforations along the length thereof and the slitting means slits the tape along the perforations.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 9, wherein the slitting means comprises a blade coupled to

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the resilient member and mounted so as to be selectively engaged and disengaged with the tape.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 9, wherein each of the tape portions has symbols and the numerical information along the length thereof.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 12, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of each of the tape portions comprise means for locating ~~locate~~ positions of wall studs on sixteen-inch centers when the tape portions are applied to floor and ceiling plates.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 13, wherein the numerical information of each of the tape portions comprises first and second series of increments, increments of the first series of increments are spaced one inch apart and repeat every twelve inches along the length of the tape, increments of the second series of increments are spaced one foot apart and repeat every twelve feet along the length of the tape.

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Claim 15 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 13, wherein the symbols are spaced about sixteen inches apart to position the wall studs on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length of about 1.5 inches in a direction along the length of the tape to coincide with abutting widths of the wall studs.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 13, wherein the symbols have identical rectangular shapes.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, wherein the spaced-apart frame members are parallel and spaced apart a distance of about 1.5 inches and the tape is about 1.5 inches wide.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, ~~claim 17~~, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of the tape comprise means for locating ~~locate~~ positions of floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to collar beams, ceiling plates, and ridge beams, respectively.

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Claim 19 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 18, wherein the numerical information comprises first and second series of increments, increments of the first series of increments are spaced one inch apart and repeat every twelve inches along the length of the tape, increments of the second series of increments are spaced one foot apart and repeat every twelve feet along the length of the tape.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 18, wherein the symbols are spaced about sixteen inches apart to position the floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length of about 1.5 inches in a direction along the length of the tape to coincide with abutting widths of the floor joists, ceiling joists, and common roof rafters.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 18, wherein the symbols have identical rectangular shapes.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, ~~claim 17~~, wherein the symbols and the numerical information of the tape comprise means for locating ~~locate~~ positions of jack

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rafters on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to hip and valley rafters.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 22, wherein the numerical information consists of a roof pitch value.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 23, wherein the symbols are spaced apart along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to position the jack rafters on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length in a direction along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to coincide with abutting widths of the jack rafters.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 22, wherein the symbols have identical shapes comprising two identical triangles contacting each other at a single corner and separated from each other by a line of symmetry.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 1, ~~claim 17~~, wherein the symbols and the numerical

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information of the tape comprise means for locating ~~locate~~ positions of jack studs on sixteen-inch centers when the tape is applied to a gable end rafter.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 26, ~~claim x26~~, wherein the numerical information consists of a roof pitch value.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 27, wherein the symbols are spaced apart along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to position the jack studs on sixteen-inch centers and each of the symbols has a length in a direction along the length of the tape on the basis of the roof pitch value to coincide with abutting widths of the jack studs.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 28, wherein the symbols have identical shapes comprising two identical parallelograms contacting each other at a single corner and separated from each other by a line of symmetry.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The tape dispenser system according to claim 29, wherein the parallelograms define an angle

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therebetween that is substantially equal to the roof pitch value.

Claim 31 (Canceled)